

CLAIMS

1. An information recording medium comprising:  
a first area which records common information  
which can be commonly played back by a plurality of  
5 types of information playback apparatuses provided by  
different manufacturers or distributors and complies  
with common standards;

a second area which records specific information  
which can be played back by only an information  
10 playback apparatus of a specific type provided by  
a specific manufacturer or distributor; and

a third area which records link information  
indicating a link between the common information and  
specific information.

15 2. A medium according to claim 1, wherein the  
link information contains:

number information indicating the number of link  
designation locations in the common information.

20 3. A medium according to claim 1, wherein the  
link information contains:

at least one ID information of ID information  
indicating a manufacturer of the information playback  
apparatus of the specific type, and ID information  
indicating a distributor of the information playback  
25 apparatus of the specific type.

4. A medium according to claim 1, wherein the  
link information contains:

at least one character code of a character code  
corresponding to ID information indicating a manufac-  
turer of the information playback apparatus of the  
specific type, and a character code corresponding to ID  
5 information indicating a distributor of the information  
playback apparatus of the specific type.

5. A medium according to claim 1, wherein the  
link information contains:

update history information indicating an update  
10 state of the link information.

6. An information recording method of recording  
predetermined information on a predetermined  
information recording medium, comprising the steps of:

recording common information which can be commonly  
15 played back by a plurality of types of information  
playback apparatuses provided by different manufactur-  
ers or distributors and complies with common standards;

recording specific information which can be played  
back by only an information playback apparatus of a  
20 specific type provided by a specific manufacturer or  
distributor; and

recording link information indicating a link  
between the common information and specific information.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the  
25 link information contains:

number information indicating the number of link  
designation locations in the common information.

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8. A method according to claim 6, wherein the link information contains:

at least one ID information of ID information indicating a manufacturer of the information playback apparatus of the specific type, and ID information indicating a distributor of the information playback apparatus of the specific type.

9. A method according to claim 6, wherein the link information contains:

at least one character code of a character code corresponding to ID information indicating a manufacturer of the information playback apparatus of the specific type, and a character code corresponding to ID information indicating a distributor of the information playback apparatus of the specific type.

10. A method according to claim 6, wherein the link information contains update history information, and

said method further comprises the step of recording information indicating that the link information has been updated in the update history information, when the link information has been updated.

11. An information recording apparatus for recording predetermined information on a predetermined information recording medium, comprising:

recording means for recording common information which can be commonly played back by a plurality of

5 playback apparatus of a specific type provided by  
a specific manufacturer or distributor, and recording  
link information indicating a link between the common  
information and specific information.

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of the specific type.

15. An apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising means for recording the link information which contains update history information, and  
5 recording information indicating that the link information has been updated in the update history information, when the link information has been updated.

16. An information playback method applied to an information playback apparatus of a specific type,  
10 which is provided by a specific manufacturer or distributor, and plays back an information recording medium,

the information recording medium comprising:

a first area which records common information  
15 which can be commonly played back by a plurality of types of information playback apparatuses provided by different manufacturers or distributors and complies with common standards;

a second area which records specific information  
20 which can be played back by only the information playback apparatus of the specific type provided by the specific manufacturer or distributor; and

a third area which records link information that indicates a link between the common information and  
25 specific information, and contains at least one ID information of ID information indicating a manufacturer of the information playback apparatus of the specific

type, and ID information indicating a distributor of the information playback apparatus of the specific type, the information playback apparatus of the specific type, comprising:

5 ID information storage means for storing at least one ID information of ID information indicating the manufacturer of the information playback apparatus of the specific type, and ID information indicating the distributor of the information playback apparatus of  
10 the specific type, and

said method comprising the step of:

comparing the ID information stored in said ID information storage means and the ID information contained in the link information played back from the  
15 information recording medium, and playing back the specific information on the condition that the two pieces of ID information match each other.

17. A method according to claim 16, wherein the link information recorded in the third area of the  
20 information recording medium contains:

at least one character code of a character code corresponding to ID information indicating the manufacturer of the information playback apparatus of the specific type, and a character code corresponding  
25 to ID information indicating the distributor of the information playback apparatus of the specific type, the information playback apparatus of the specific

type for playing back the information recording medium,  
further comprises:

character code storage means for storing at least  
one character code of a character code corresponding  
5 to ID information indicating the manufacturer of the  
information playback apparatus of the specific type,  
and a character code corresponding to ID information  
indicating the distributor of the information playback  
apparatus of the specific type, and

10 said information playback method applied to the  
information playback apparatus of the specific type for  
playing back the information recording medium, further  
comprises the step of:

comparing the character code stored in said  
15 character code storage means with the character code  
contained in the link information, comparing the ID  
information stored in said ID information storage means  
with ID information played back from the information  
recording medium, when the two character codes match  
20 each other, and playing back the specific information  
when the two pieces of ID information match each other.

18. An information playback apparatus for playing  
back an information recording medium,

the information recording medium comprising:

25 a first area which records common information  
which can be commonly played back by a plurality of  
types of information playback apparatuses provided by

different manufacturers or distributors and complies with common standards;

5 a second area which records specific information which can be played back by only an information playback apparatus of a specific type provided by the specific manufacturer or distributor; and

10 a third area which records link information that indicates a link between the common information and specific information, and contains at least one ID information of ID information indicating a manufacturer of the information playback apparatus of the specific type, and ID information indicating a distributor of the information playback apparatus of the specific type,

15 said information playback apparatus of the specific type, comprising:

20 ID information storage means for storing at least one ID information of ID information indicating a manufacturer of said information playback apparatus of the specific type, and ID information indicating a distributor of said information playback apparatus of the specific type; and

25 playback means for playing back the common information, specific information, and link information recorded in the first, second, and third areas of the information recording medium.

19. An apparatus according to claim 18, further comprising specific information playback means for

comparing the ID information stored in said ID  
information storage means with the ID information  
contained in the link information played back from the  
information recording medium, and playing back the  
5 specific information on the condition that the two  
pieces of ID information match each other.

20. An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein  
the link information recorded in the third area of the  
information recording medium contains:

10 at least one character code of a character code  
corresponding to ID information indicating the  
manufacturer of said information playback apparatus of  
the specific type, and a character code corresponding  
to ID information indicating the distributor of said  
15 information playback apparatus of the specific type,  
and

said information playback apparatus of the  
specific type for playing back the information  
recording medium, further comprises:

20 character code storage means for storing at least  
one character code of a character code corresponding to  
ID information indicating the manufacturer of said  
information playback apparatus of the specific type,  
and a character code corresponding to ID information  
25 indicating the distributor of said information playback  
apparatus of the specific type; and

specific information playback means for comparing

the character code stored in said character code  
storage means with the character code contained in the  
link information, comparing the ID information stored  
in said ID information storage means with ID

- 5 information played back from the information recording  
medium, when the two character codes match each other,  
and playing back the specific information when the two  
pieces of ID information match each other.

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